

the Port of Everett, Washington. The Port, in cooperation with the City of Everett, the City of Mukilteo, the Washington State Department of Transportation, Sound Transit, and the Washington State Ferry System, plans to redevelop the site to include a new ferry terminal, commuter rail, a marina and enhanced shoreline access. This redevelopment will revitalize Mukilteo and Everett while improving transportation in this area. An important first step in implementing these development plans is for the Air Force to convey this property to the Port of Everett.

For almost 30 years, the 22 acre parcel of land has also been home to the National Marine Fisheries Service's, NMFS', Mukilteo Field Research Facility. Its laboratories are currently housed in old, run-down military barracks. Last year's land transfer legislation did not convey any of the property to NMFS. The agency was concerned that it had lost its chance to own a portion of the 22 acres, and thus to make significant improvements to the site. The facility conducts valuable marine research, which will lead to improved long-term success in protecting and restoring salmon, groundfish and other species in Puget Sound.

I directed the parties involved to reach a mutually agreeable solution. I am very pleased to announce that today's amendment reflects an agreement between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, NMFS and the Port of Everett. Upon transfer of the 22 acres, the Air Force will convey 1.1 acres to NOAA. After 12 years, any portion of the 1.1 acres not being used by NOAA shall automatically revert to the Port of Everett. In addition, the Secretary of Commerce will have the authority to exchange portions of the 1.1 acres with the Port of Everett should such an exchange be deemed mutually agreeable.

This amendment reflects almost a year of negotiations and hard work on the part of many people within each organization. I would like to thank John Mohr, Executive Director for the Port of Everett, and Donna Darm, Acting Regional Administrator for NMFS in the Northwest Region. I appreciate their outstanding leadership in crafting this agreement. I look forward to continuing to work with the Port of Everett, NMFS and NOAA on this and any other issue that may arise in the future. Congratulations on working out an agreement which, I believe, is in the long-term interest of the community, the state of Washington and the nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed as in morning business for 20 minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I wish to ask

the Senator if he will forbear for a moment.

In my capacity as ranking member of the committee, I thank our committee member from the great State of Louisiana for all of her hard work and for her taking over the chairmanship of the Emerging Threats Subcommittee. I don't know of any other task facing the Senate today that is greater than what faces her in trying to work for the administration now that the President has made some very significant announcements in restructuring efforts of the Federal Government toward addressing the emerging and, indeed, regrettably existing threats now poised at our country. So I commend the Senator from Louisiana and wish her well in the weeks and months to come in her new capacity as chairman.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Senator. Let me respond briefly. To assure the Senator from Virginia that we are up to the task and that our members are ready to go, we look forward to working with him, and I appreciate his guidance, support, and direction.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from South Carolina to speak as in morning business?

Mr. REID. Madam President, what was the request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is from the Senator from South Carolina to speak as in morning business.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, before we move off the Defense bill—if it is within the rules, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate enter into a period for morning business, with Senators not to speak for more than 15 minutes each.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I will not object. That will mean we will now go off the Defense bill, which we discussed. In consultation with our chairman, I hope by Monday we will be ready to proceed with some amendments as soon as the leadership establishes the parameters as to when the votes will be taken. We will be ready.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I appreciate very much the report from the ranking member. The ranking member and the chairman have done a good job getting us to this point. We

ought to be ready with amendments. We are going to have votes as early as 12 o'clock on Monday. I would like to entertain amendments as early as 10 o'clock on Monday morning and be prepared for votes as early as 12 o'clock on Monday.

We will certainly work with the ranking member, the chairman, and accommodate those Senators who wish to offer amendments. We need to get started. I would like to get into a very complete debate on Monday. We will be in throughout the day and maybe into the evening on Monday in order to continue our work on the Defense authorization bill.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I thank our distinguished leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I will also say for the interest of colleagues, we will be propounding the unanimous consent request with regard to the consideration of the aviation legislation sometime shortly, but it was in the interest of accommodating Senators who wish to speak that I thought it would be appropriate for us now to enter into a period for morning business. We will do that and be back on the floor with the request in the not too distant future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Who seeks recognition? The Senator from South Carolina.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1447

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I understand that a settlement has been reached between the leadership of the House and Senate relative to the airline assistance measure. This measure, an attempt to propound a bare bones solution, does not encompass all the main considerations that came out at the hearing we had in the Commerce Committee yesterday.

It is more or less a gentlemen's agreement that safety is just as important, or this particular Senator was trying to get safety and security ahead of money. Be that as it may, the money has prevailed and the bill will pass, perhaps this weekend or perhaps this afternoon. I want to save time by speaking now so that when the bill is under consideration, I will not be holding up my colleagues who are trying to catch transportation to get home for the weekend.

In that light, I have at the desk a bill by myself, Senator MCCAIN, Senator KERRY, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator HUTCHISON, Senator BREAUX, Senator CLELAND, Senator NELSON, Senator EDWARDS, Senator BURNS, Senator SMITH, and Senator REID. I ask it be given its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows: